

III. REMARKS

A. Status of the Claims

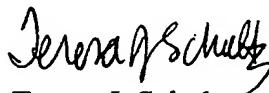
Claims 1-20 were originally filed with the case on June 26, 2003. No Written Opinion has issued in the present case. The International Search Report was mailed on December 15, 2003. Claims 1, 5, 9 and 13 are amended herein to clarify the subject matter of the invention. Claims 21-25 are added herein. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and in the claims as originally filed. More specifically, support for amendments to claims 1, 5 and 9 and for new claim 21 can be found at page 10, lines 34-36. Support for new claims 21-23 can also be found at page 1, lines 28-31 and in the claims as originally filed. Support for new claims 24 and 25 can be found at page 6, lines 4-6.

B. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the claims be considered as amended herein.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (817) 551-4321 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa J. Schultz
Reg. No. 40,526
Attorney for Applicants

ALCON RESEARCH, LTD.
6201 S. Freeway, Q-148
Fort Worth, TX 76134-2099
(817) 551-4321

Date: 17 Feb. 2004